

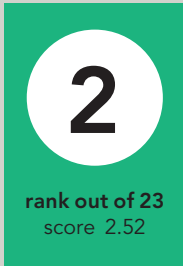


Technisem

Access to Seeds Index

Corporate data
Headquarters: Longué-Jumelles, France
Ownership type: Private
Group revenue (2017): EUR 16,790,000
www.technisem.com

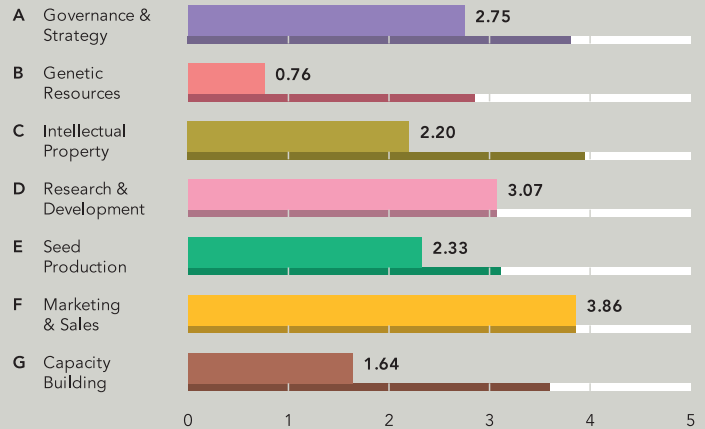
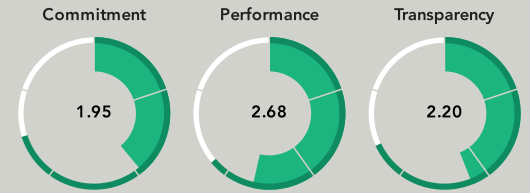
Established in France in 1985, Technisem is a vegetable breeding company that specializes in breeding, producing and distributing vegetable seed for tropical countries. It has extensive business activities throughout Africa and also operates in the Middle East, Caribbean and Latin America. The company focuses on Western and Central Africa, where the company's CEO played a central role in establishing Novalliance, a consortium of seed companies across the region. Group member collaborations include activities related to breeding, seed production, sales and capacity building. All of its customers are smallholder farmers, and its main crops are onion, cabbage and watermelon.



Western and Central Africa

Technisem ranks second in the 2019 Index for Western and Central Africa. It performs particularly well in Research & Development and Marketing & Sales, where it is a leader among its peers thanks to its region-wide breeding efforts that encompass local crops and

its presence in over 80% of index countries. The company's unique partnership with several other West and Central African seed companies, through the Novalliance group, boosts its score in Governance & Strategy. The company's lowest score in Genetic Resources reflects a lack of reported positions on the conservation and use of genetic diversity in the region and benefit-sharing. In addition, Technisem's Transparency score could be improved if the company disclosed in greater detail its activities to improve access to seeds for smallholder farmers. With regard to formalization of company commitments in corporate policies and strategies, there is significant room for improvement.



Leading practices

■ Through Novalliance, Technisem has been formalizing its collaboration with 45 seed companies worldwide, and primarily in West and Central Africa. Technisem states that the alliance was set up to help develop the seed sector in the region, in principle through the establishment of partnerships with local companies rather than the creation of subsidiaries in Africa. The alliance includes index companies Technisem, Tropicasem, Nankosem and Semagri. Novalliance aims to open around 200 stores across the region by 2025. The group is managed by job committees, each composed of managers from member companies.

■ Technisem has a broad breeding program, both in and outside of Western and Central Africa, which aims to adapt global vegetable crops to tropical conditions and improve local African crops. In the region, the company shares its breeding programs with its African Novalliance partner companies in Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Senegal, across various climatic conditions. Notably, the company has variety testing locations in about 60% of the index countries.

■ Technisem has capacity building activities in 60% of the index countries, more than any of its peers. It involves up to 32 staff per country, organizing training on good agronomic practices and appropriate input usage.

■ The company produces seed in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Senegal.

Areas for improvement

■ Technisem is encouraged to increase public disclosure regarding its access to seeds-related activities in Western and Central Africa.

■ The company has a broad breeding program with locations in multiple countries around the world. It is encouraged to articulate a strategy on the conservation and use of genetic resources, covering both crops in and outside its portfolio.

■ Building on its extensive experience in offering capacity building activities in Western and Central Africa, the company is encouraged to broaden these initiatives, orienting these toward next-generation and women smallholder farmers as well.

